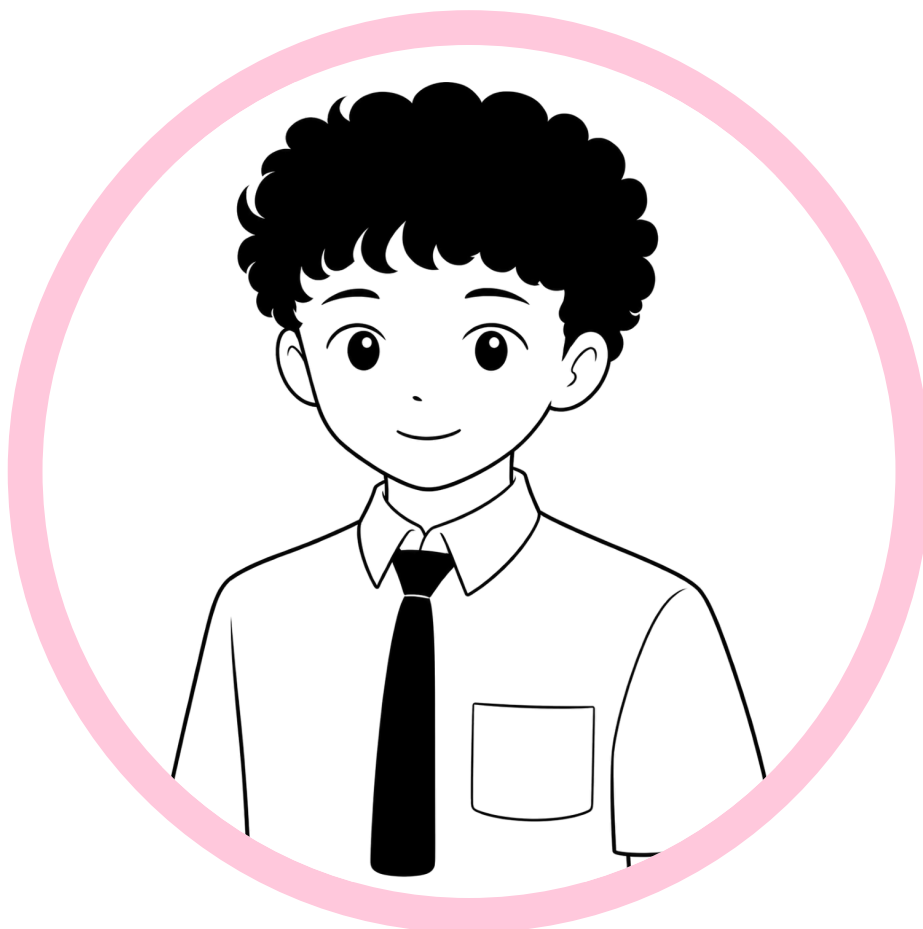


ENGLISH



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

MACBETH: 20 PRACTICE QUESTIONS

SCORE

/

PERCENTAGE

%

STEMUP

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 1 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

The play opens with the three witches meeting on a "blasted heath" before they encounter Macbeth.

FIRST WITCH

When shall we three meet again
In thunder, lightning, or in rain?

SECOND WITCH

When the hurlyburly's done,
When the battle's lost and won.

THIRD WITCH

That will be ere the set of sun.

FIRST WITCH

Where the place?

SECOND WITCH

Upon the heath.

THIRD WITCH

There to meet with Macbeth.

FIRST WITCH

I come, Graymalkin!

SECOND WITCH

Paddock calls.

THIRD WITCH

Anon.

ALL

Fair is foul, and foul is fair:
Hover through the fog and filthy air.

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents the supernatural as a disruptive force.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the supernatural as a disruptive force in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents the supernatural as a disruptive force in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Macbeth

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There to meet with Macbeth.

FIRST WITCH

I come, Graymalkin!

SECOND WITCH

Paddock calls.

THIRD WITCH

Anon.

ALL

Fair is foul, and foul is fair:
Hover through the fog and filthy air.

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents the paradox of 'fair is foul, foul is fair'.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the paradox of 'fair is foul, foul is fair' in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents the paradox of 'fair is foul, foul is fair' in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 4 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

Duncan learns of the former Thane of Cawdor's execution, moments before Macbeth enters.

DUNCAN

There's no art

To find the mind's construction in the face:

He was a gentleman on whom I built

An absolute trust.

[Enter MACBETH, BANQUO, ROSS, and ANGUS]

O worthiest cousin!

The sin of my ingratitude even now

Was heavy on me.

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents dramatic irony.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents dramatic irony in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents dramatic irony in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Macbeth

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DUNCAN

There's no art

To find the mind's construction in the face:

He was a gentleman on whom I built

An absolute trust.

[Enter MACBETH, BANQUO, ROSS, and ANGUS]

O worthiest cousin!

The sin of my ingratitude even now

Was heavy on me.

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Duncan as a trusting character.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Duncan as a trusting character in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Duncan as a trusting character in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 1 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

Macbeth, alone before the murder, sends a message to Lady Macbeth.

MACBETH

Go bid thy mistress, when my drink is ready,
She strike upon the bell. Get thee to bed.
[Exit Servant]

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Macbeth's anticipation and deception.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth's anticipation and deception in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth's anticipation and deception in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Macbeth

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Macbeth, alone before the murder, sends a message to Lady Macbeth.

MACBETH

Go bid thy mistress, when my drink is ready,
She strike upon the bell. Get thee to bed.
[Exit Servant]

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents appearance versus reality.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents appearance versus reality in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents appearance versus reality in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 3 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

A drunken Porter, hearing knocking at the gate, imagines himself the porter of hell.

PORTER

Here's a knocking indeed! If a man were porter of hell-gate, he should have old turning the key.

[Knocking]

Knock, knock, knock! Who's there, i' the name of Beelzebub? Here's a farmer, that hanged himself on the expectation of plenty.

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents equivocation and appearance versus reality.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents equivocation and appearance versus reality in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents equivocation and appearance versus reality in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Macbeth

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[Knocking]

Knock, knock, knock! Who's there, i' the name of Beelzebub? Here's a farmer, that hanged himself on the expectation of plenty.

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents comic relief used to build tension.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents comic relief used to build tension in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents comic relief used to build tension in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 1 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

Macbeth has summoned two murderers and is persuading them that Banquo, not Macbeth, is responsible for their misfortunes.

MACBETH

Know

That it was he in the times past which held you
So under fortune, which you thought had been
Our innocent self: this I made good to you
In our last conference, pass'd in probation with you,
How you were borne in hand, how cross'd, the instruments,
Who wrought with them, and all things else that might
To half a soul and to a notion crazed
Say 'Thus did Banquo.'

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as manipulative.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as manipulative in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as manipulative in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Macbeth

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How you were borne in hand, how cross'd, the instruments,
Who wrought with them, and all things else that might
To half a soul and to a notion crazed
Say 'Thus did Banquo.'

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents the normalisation of violence.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the normalisation of violence in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents the normalisation of violence in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 4 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

Later in the banquet scene, after the ghost of Banquo has vanished a second time, Macbeth speaks with Lady Macbeth about what he has become.

MACBETH

It will have blood; they say, blood will have blood:
Stones have been known to move and trees to speak;
Augurs and understood relations have
By magot-pies and choughs and rooks brought forth
The secret'st man of blood. What is the night?

LADY MACBETH

Almost at odds with morning, which is which.

MACBETH

I am in blood
Stepp'd in so far that, should I wade no more,
Returning were as tedious as go o'er.

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as trapped by his own actions.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as trapped by his own actions in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as trapped by his own actions in the play as a whole

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LADY MACBETH

Almost at odds with morning, which is which.

MACBETH

I am in blood
Stepp'd in so far that, should I wade no more,
Returning were as tedious as go o'er.

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents guilt and blood imagery.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents guilt and blood imagery in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents guilt and blood imagery in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 4 Scene 1 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

The witches show Macbeth a vision of a long line of kings descended from Banquo, confirming his worst fear.

MACBETH

Thou art too like the spirit of Banquo: down!
Thy crown does sear mine eye-balls. And thy hair,
Thou other gold-bound brow, is like the first.
A third is like the former. Filthy hags!
Why do you show me this? A fourth! Start, eyes!
What, will the line stretch out to the crack of doom?
Another yet! A seventh! I'll see no more:
And yet the eighth appears, who bears a glass
Which shows me many more; and some I see
That two-fold balls and treble sceptres carry:
Horrible sight!

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Macbeth's ambition as ultimately futile.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth's ambition as ultimately futile in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth's ambition as ultimately futile in the play as a whole

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And yet the eighth appears, who bears a glass
Which shows me many more; and some I see
That two-fold balls and treble sceptres carry:
Horrible sight!

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents fate and Banquo's legacy.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents fate and Banquo's legacy in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents fate and Banquo's legacy in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 4 Scene 3 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

Ross arrives in England and is forced to tell Macduff that his wife and children have all been murdered on Macbeth's orders.

MACDUFF

My children too?

ROSS

Wife, children, servants, all
That could be found.

MACDUFF

And I must be from thence!
My wife kill'd too?

ROSS

I have said.

MALCOLM

Be comforted:
Let's make us medicines of our great revenge,
To cure this deadly grief.

MACDUFF

He has no children. All my pretty ones?
Did you say all? O hell-kite! All?
What, all my pretty chickens and their dam
At one fell swoop?

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Macduff's grief.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macduff's grief in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Macduff's grief in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Macbeth

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MACDUFF

He has no children. All my pretty ones?
Did you say all? O hell-kite! All?
What, all my pretty chickens and their dam
At one fell swoop?

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents revenge and justice.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents revenge and justice in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents revenge and justice in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 5 Scene 3 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

With his enemies closing in, Macbeth reflects alone on what old age should have brought him and what he has instead.

MACBETH

I have lived long enough: my way of life
Is fall'n into the sear, the yellow leaf;
And that which should accompany old age,
As honour, love, obedience, troops of friends,
I must not look to have; but, in their stead,
Curses, not loud but deep, mouth-honour, breath,
Which the poor heart would fain deny, and dare not.

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as isolated.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as isolated in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as isolated in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Macbeth

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I must not look to have; but, in their stead,
Curses, not loud but deep, mouth-honour, breath,
Which the poor heart would fain deny, and dare not.

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents the emptiness of ambition.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the emptiness of ambition in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents the emptiness of ambition in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 5 Scene 5 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

Immediately after his "Tomorrow" speech, a Messenger arrives with the news that Birnam Wood does indeed seem to be advancing on the castle.

MACBETH

If thou speak'st false,
Upon the next tree shalt thou hang alive,
Till famine cling thee: if thy speech be sooth,
I care not if thou dost for me as much.
I pull in resolution, and begin
To doubt the equivocation of the fiend
That lies like truth: 'Fear not, till Birnam wood
Do come to Dunsinane:' and now a wood
Comes toward Dunsinane. Arm, arm, and out!

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Macbeth's world beginning to collapse.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth's world beginning to collapse in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth's world beginning to collapse in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Macbeth

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To doubt the equivocation of the fiend
That lies like truth: 'Fear not, till Birnam wood
Do come to Dunsinane:' and now a wood
Comes toward Dunsinane. Arm, arm, and out!

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Macbeth's fear and desperation.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth's fear and desperation in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth's fear and desperation in the play as a whole

[30 marks]